



File Code: 2210

Date: 2011

Dear Permittee;

Below is your Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the Caribou Basin Cattle Allotment. These operating instructions are a guide for management on this allotment during the 2011 grazing season. We have also included your **Actual Use Form, which should be completed and returned with the folder to the Soda Springs Ranger District by November 30, 2011.**

### Permittee and Permitted Livestock

Listed below are the permittees on the allotment, permitted numbers, authorized numbers and season of use.

PERMITTEE	PERMITTED NUMBER	AUTHORIZED USE	SEASON OF USE
Shanon Christensen	136 cow/calf	136	6/11-9/30
Brad Christensen	100 cow/calf	100	6/11-9/30
Vic Hill	106 cow/calf	106	6/11-9/30

If you intend to take any non-use, it must be approved prior to the grazing season. **As a reminder, you must own the livestock you place on the allotment. Leasing of livestock is a violation of your term grazing permit and will result in the cancellation of your permit.**

### Grazing Schedule

The 2011 rotation is outlined in this section. The Caribou Basin Allotment is separated into 4 units. The grazing system is a deferred-rotation system. The entry date onto your allotment may be adjusted depending on range readiness. If a change is necessary you will be notified. Please contact us 5 days prior to turn out.

#### **Rotation Schedule 2010 (112 days)**

Order	2 <sup>nd</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>
Unit	1 ( 21 Days)	2 (30 days)	3 (25 Days)	4 (36 Days)
Dates	7/11-7/31	6/11-7/10	9/6-9/30	8/1-9/5

2011 Rotation (2143), 2012 rotation (1234) rotate every other year between these two rotations.

The schedule outlined above is only an estimate. Time allowed in each unit will be based on distribution of livestock and utilization of key areas. If riparian or upland monitoring show that an area is being overused, even if there is adequate vegetation in surrounding upland or riparian



areas, livestock will be moved to the next unit. It is your responsibility to see that this grazing schedule is followed. Approval must be obtained before changes to the grazing schedule occur.

### **Utilization Standards**

Standards and Guides covering the allotments are found in the *2003 Revised Forest Plan for the Caribou National Forest* and the *2005 Grazing Implementation Guide (GIG)* are now made part of your permit. The proper use standards/triggers for this allotment are listed in tables one and three below. Your livestock must be removed from an area when the allowable forage utilization levels are reached in either the uplands or the riparian areas. The utilization standards will apply to, both native and desirable non-native, key species. Stubble heights, on riparian areas, will have to be adjusted to meet percent utilization standards if non-native species such as red-top or Kentucky blue grass are monitored. Monitoring of use will include using utilization cages, utilization scales/gauges, ocular estimates or a combination of these three.

Table 1. Riparian Zone Forage Utilization and Stubble Heights (AIZ)

Season of Use	Properly Functioning Condition (%/Stubble Height)	Functioning at Risk (High to Moderate) (%/Stubble Height)	Functioning at Risk (Low to Non Functioning) (%/Stubble Height)	Non Functioning (States C & D) (%/Stubble Height)
Spring	65/2	55/3	45/4	55/3
Summer	55/3	45/4	35/5	45/4
Fall	45/4	35/5	20/6+	35/5

### **Site Specific Riparian Forage Utilization Standards**

If it is determined that bank disturbance/alteration, greenline stubble height or woody/shrubby species utilization should replace the utilization triggers listed above it will be addressed in the site specific standards below. Riparian site specific standards will be established when a Proper Functioning Condition (PFC) rating is conducted on the riparian area. The site specific standards for riparian areas will come directly from the PFC rating and the Grazing Implementation Guide dated 12/28/2005. If a site specific PFC rating has not been conducted on a riparian area standards for the area will be established by the Range Specialist on the allotment.

Table 2 PFC Ratings per Stream

Unit	Key Area	Stream Condition
*Unit # 1	Miners Delight Cr.	Functioning-at-Risk high
Unit # 2	Camp Creek	Functioning-at-Risk (Moderate)
Unit # 3	Camp Creek	Functioning-at-Risk (Moderate)
Unit # 4	Miners Delight Cr.	Functioning-at-Risk (Moderate)

### **Upland Utilization Standards**

Utilization of upland vegetation will be based on stubble height and percent of total weight grazed on key forage species. **Key grass species** include Idaho fescue (*Festuca idahoensis*), bluebunch wheatgrass (*Elytrigia* (Agropyron) *spicata*), tufted hairgrass (*Deschampsia cespitosa*) and mountain brome (*Bromus carinatus*).

Table 3 Upland Utilization Standards

Allowed Upland Forage utilization	Type of Upland Area		
	Critical Winter Range	Winter Range	Non Winter Range
Grasses and herbaceous Species (% dry weight)	35	45	55
Shrubs (Annual leader growth)	10	20	35

**Table 4 2010 Season Utilization Measurements**

Unit Measured	Date	Species Measured	Type of Measurement	Measured Use	Allowable use
1	6/28 (mid season use)	Poa Pratensis (Bluegrass) Uplands	Utilization Gauge	25%	55%
1	10/5	Poa Pratensis (Bluegrass) Uplands	Utilization Gauge	32%	55%
2	8/23	Poa Pratensis (Bluegrass) Uplands	Utilization Gauge	20%	55%
2	8/23	Sedge	Stubble Height	9"	4"
3	10/5	Stipa (Needle and Thread)	Utilization Gauge	35%	55%
4	10/5	Poa Pratensis (Bluegrass)	Utilization Gauge	28%	55%

### **Special Instructions**

- This year all AOI's will be posted on the internet. In conjunction with this action all permittees must sign the AOI showing that they have read it and accept the terms, conditions, and management practices presented in it.
- The riparian area along McCoy Creek will not be used by livestock until it reaches a late seral stage. It is not to be used as a holding pen for livestock and/or horses.
- Horses are not allowed within the Caribou Basin Administrative site.
- Springs that feed ponds and stock tanks will be protected by fences. Troughs will be equipped with shut-off valves and wildlife ramps.
- You have been issued a 2011 Caribou-Targhee National Forest permit for travel off designated routes. When you carry this permit it authorizes you to travel off of designated routes with an ATV for the purpose of **maintaining improvements and spraying weeds. It does not authorize you to travel off designated routes to salt or check animals.**

- If cattle begin to congregate at gates, and riding does not effectively redistribute them; the entire herd will be moved to the next unit or off the Forest.
- Livestock control must be maintained throughout the season.
- If sheep are spending too much time on your allotment or not staying near the road, while trailing, contact us.

### **Wolf Recovery Management:**

#### **Current Legal Status**

As taken from the Idaho Fish and Game Web Site 2/16/2011  
(<http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/cms/wildlife/wolves/current.cfm>)

August 5, 2010, wolf management south of Interstate 90 reverted to a section of the Endangered Species Act known as the 10(j) rule.

Simply put, the 10(j) rule allows states and tribes with approved wolf management plans some options to manage wolves to ensure the health of wild elk and deer herds. It also provides more flexibility to protect livestock and private property. The rule allows individuals on private or public land to kill a wolf that is in the act of attacking their stock animals (horses, mules, donkey, llamas, goats used to transport people and possessions) or dogs provided there is no evidence of intentional baiting, feeding or deliberate attractants of wolves. On land north of Interstate 90 in Idaho, or land administered by the National Park Service, wolves may be killed only to protect human life.

#### **Permittee Responsibilities**

1. *Salting* - Salt should be placed in lightly used areas and used as a distribution tool. Salt is not permitted in riparian areas, forest plantations, shade-up areas, main roads (i.e. McCoy Creek road #087, Caribou City road #165), or areas where cattle normally tend to congregate. Use of a packhorse or hiring a packhorse is recommended to get salt into non-motorized areas and areas that receive light use. Rotate or remove salt from areas receiving heavy use. Specifically, do not salt near the McCoy Creek road. You may distribute salt using Forest Roads #215, #040, #164, #056, and #058. The McCoy Creek road receives heavy traffic from the public and for concerns for public safety and cattle congregating near high traffic areas we would recommend not salting along main roads.
2. *Herding* - Effective and frequent riding is a good method of achieving uniform forage utilization and extending use in riparian areas. The longer cattle can be kept out of these key areas, the longer they can remain in the unit. **Cattle should be "cleaned" out of units within a week after the move date.** Units should be checked regularly to ensure cattle have not drifted back into previously grazed areas.
3. *Weed-free hay* - Any hay or straw brought on the Forest must be certified, "weed free".
4. *Maintaining Improvements* - All improvements listed in part 3 of your permit must meet Forest Service Standards. A copy has been attached to this AOI for your convenience. A delay in livestock turnout on the **Caribou Basin** Allotment will result if improvements do not

meet acceptable standards prior to the grazing season. If they are not up to standard, and your livestock are on the allotment, administrative action may be taken against your permit. Maintenance work should be completed prior to cattle entering the allotment and to the standards listed below:

### **Fence Maintenance Standards**

#### Wire

- Broken wires should be spliced or replaced. Wire spacing and height should be consistent with the original construction.
- Loose wire should be re-stretched. Damaged clips and stays need to be replaced. Wire that is breaking frequently should be replaced.

#### Posts

- Damaged and rotted wood posts will be replaced. Posts that have been pushed over by snow or wire tension need to be reset.
- Bent steel posts need to be straightened or replaced.

#### Braces

- Loose or missing brace wires need to be tightened or replaced.
- Damaged or rotten brace posts will be replaced. Straighten and reset any posts that have settled or are crooked.

#### Let-Down Fences

- Let-down fences will be put up before the beginning of the grazing season and taken down at the end of the grazing season.
- The let-down design of the fence will be maintained. Retighten let-down spans that have loose wire, replace broken stays, and replace missing staples or wire loops.

### **Water Development Maintenance Standards**

#### Springboxes

- Sediment and foreign objects need to be removed from headboxes.
- Damaged headbox covers need to be repaired or replaced.
- Repair any damaged fence around springs.
- A galvanized screen must be kept on the intake pipe in the headbox. Replace and repair screens as needed.
- Water should be kept in the trough throughout the grazing season.

#### Pipelines and Troughs

- Cracked or broken pipelines need to be replaced. Clean plugged pipelines.
- Drain pipes must be kept open, operating, and able to drain overflow at least 20 feet away from trough.
- Clean sediment from troughs. Repair and clean overflows and float valves. Level troughs and reset when needed. Replace broken trough braces.

- Wildlife escape ramps need to be installed in every water trough, contact your Forest range manager to obtain these ramps.

#### Stock Ponds and Reservoirs

- Clean stockwater ponds and spillways of debris, dead animals, etc.
- When siltation builds to one half the capacity of the pond, it must be cleaned.

### **Forms to be Completed**

Please read and follow the general instructions in your folder, **complete the Actual Use Form and return this folder to us by November 30, 2011.** Read the instructions on Part 2 of your Term Grazing Permit.

If you have questions or concerns during the grazing season, feel free to call me or any of the range staff on the zone. Our phone numbers are as follows.

	Office	Cell
<b>Jack Isaacs District Ranger</b>	208) 547-4356	
<b>Kevin Parker Supervisory Range Specialist</b>	208) 547-1108 208) 547-4356	208) 313-7328
<b>Dell Transtrum Range Specialist</b>	208) 547-1106	208) 313-7906

Sincerely,

*/S/ JACK ISAACS*

JACK L. ISAACS  
District Ranger

# Annual Operating Instructions Soda Springs Ranger District Caribou Basin C&H Allotment 2011



Accepted By: /S/ Vic Hill 5/19/11  
Vic Hill Date

**Accepted By:** /S/ Brad Christensen 5/19/11  
**Brad Christensen** **Date**

**Accepted By:** /S/ Shannon Christensen 5/19/11  
**Shanon Christensen** **Date**

**Approved By:** /S/ Jack Isaacs 5/19/11  
**Jack L Isaacs** **Date**  
**District Ranger**